



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WR-4**

March 6, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

**WALNUT CREEK
APPROVE AGREEMENT TO SPREAD WELL DEVELOPMENT WATER
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Consider the Negative Declaration for the Subarea 1 Arrow/Lante Project adopted by the Valley County Water District (VCWD) on February 25, 2002, find the Negative Declaration adequately describes the Subarea 1 Arrow/Lante Project impacts for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and find that these actions reflect the independent judgement of the County of Los Angeles.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to execute an agreement with the VCWD and Aerojet General Corporation, Azusa Land Reclamation Company, Inc., Fairchild Holding Corporation, Hartwell Corporation, Huffy Corporation, Oil and Solvent Process Company, Reichhold, Inc., and Wynn Oil Company (collectively known as the "Parties"), which describes the terms and conditions for accepting well development water for groundwater recharge within Walnut Creek located in the City of Baldwin Park.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

We are recommending that your Board find the Negative Declaration adequately describes the project impacts on the environment and approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an agreement, which shall be substantially in the form of the enclosed agreement with the VCWD and the Parties, for accepting well development water for groundwater recharge within Walnut Creek located in the City of Baldwin Park.

To remediate groundwater contamination in the Baldwin Park area, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered the Parties, who are responsible for the contamination, to fund the construction of facilities to extract and treat the contaminated groundwater. The VCWD, as part of its Subarea 1 Arrow/Lante Project, will construct and operate two extraction wells and a treatment plant. The treatment plant will treat the contaminated groundwater for use in the municipal water supply.

However, the two wells are to be constructed prior to construction of the treatment plant. Therefore, the contaminated groundwater extracted during the well development is to be discharged into Walnut Creek and allowed to percolate back into the same contaminated portion of the groundwater basin. The EPA has found this to be the most reasonable and cost-effective approach to disposal of the well development water.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by providing a beneficial method for disposal of the well development water, which will allow the wells to be completed now prior to construction of the treatment plant. With the wells already in place at the time the treatment plant is completed, the entire project will be able to begin extracting and treating the contaminated groundwater much earlier, thereby halting further migration of the groundwater contamination.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The enclosed agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel prior to signature by the Director of Public Works.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The EPA is implementing this project under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The VCWD is the lead agency for this project and has previously prepared and adopted a Negative Declaration on February 25, 2002, for this project in compliance with CEQA. We have independently reviewed the Negative Declaration and have determined that it adequately addresses the environmental impacts of the project. As a responsible agency prior to approval of this agreement, your Board's finding that the environmental impacts are adequately described in accordance with CEQA is required.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact to current County services or projects as a result of this project. The Parties are responsible for assuring that the well development water complies with all relevant water quality regulations and will insure and indemnify the County against future negative impacts, if any, from the use of well development water for recharge.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office, County Counsel